

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claim(s) 3, 4, and 15 are pending in the application.

The final Office action dated 23 April 2004 rejects claim(s) 1, 2, 5, 6, 9-14, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants respectfully disagree with the reasons for rejection given in the final action, but cancel the rejected claims without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter in order to facilitate issuance of a patent for the allowed claims. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute subject matter of the canceled claims in a divisional or other continuing application.

The final Office action dated 23 April 2004 objects to claims 3, 4, and 15 as depending from a rejected base claim, but states that they are allowable if rewritten in independent form, etc. This having been effected in this amendment, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the pending claims and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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